

Serial No.: 09/588,853
Attorney Docket No.: F-126

Patent

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 18-22 were pending in the Application. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has amended claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 18 for merely cosmetic purposes to rewrite the claims in independent form. The scope of the claims has not been changed. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-13 and 18-22 will remain pending in the application.

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,963,618 to Porter ("Porter '618").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims of that scope or other scope in another patent application.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In section 7, the Examiner indicates that Claims 13 and 18-22 are allowable and that claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-12 contain allowable subject matter but stand objected as dependent upon a rejected intervening claim. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability and submits that claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 have been amended for merely cosmetic purposes to include the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Claim 18 has been amended for merely cosmetic purposes to reference claim 22. The scope of the claims has not been changed and the Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION OF REMARKS

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

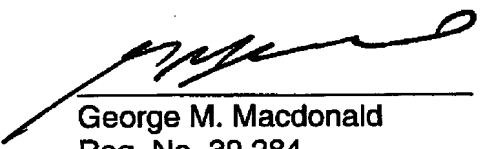
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

AUTHORIZATION

Please charge the required fee as specified in the Amendment Transmittal letter enclosed herewith. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-126.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-126.

Respectfully submitted,



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